

UNIVERSAL INTERFACE

ABSTRACT

A universal interface apparatus having a processor for receiving one or
5 more Network Interface signals having a transport mechanism associated
therewith. The transport mechanism may include Asynchronous Transfer Mode,
Internet Protocol, Frame Relay, Integrated Services Digital Network, High bit-
rate Digital Subscriber Line, Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line, Very High
Data Rate Digital Subscriber Line, Symmetric Digital Subscriber Line, 10 base T,
10 100 Base T, Gigabit Ethernet and E1/T1. The processor may recognize the
transport mechanism associated with each Network Interface signal. In the
event Asynchronous Transfer Mode is recognized as the transport mechanism,
the processor may also segment perform ATM adaptation layer processing on
each Network Interface signal. Further, the universal interface apparatus
15 includes a bus interface device for generating a System Interface signal from the
ATM adaptation layer processed Network Interface signal in response to the
recognized transport mechanism.